

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend Claims 1, 10 and 13-15 as follows and add Claims 17-20:

1. (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic wave shielding material comprising a fibrous structure base material and a conductive metal layer, wherein the fibrous structure base material is a three dimensionally knitted base material composed of an upper ground structure (1), a lower ground structure (1) and connection thread (2) interconnecting the upper ground structure (1) and the lower ground structure (1),

the conductive layer is constituted by subjecting the three dimensionally knitted base material to an electroless plating with at least one conductive metal, and the connection thread (2) of the three dimensionally knitted base material is provided so that, ~~at in a sectional portion (3) direction~~ of the three dimensionally knitted base material, ~~between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1), the direction in which the connection thread (2) is arranged avoids intersecting the sectional plane and provides portions (3) extending between the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) and entirely omitting connecting thread (2) from both ground structures (1,1) and an interior therebetween are and situated between portions containing the connecting thread (2) extending between and interconnecting both the upper and lower ground structures (1,1) to minimize debris upon cutting.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, characterized in that a heat-fusing thread is used in at least a portion of the three dimensionally knitted base material.

3. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 2, characterized in that a heat-fusing thread is used by the amount of 30 to 90 mass % of the thread as one constituent of the three dimensionally knitted base material.

4. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 2, characterized in that the heat-fusing thread is a composite thread having a core-sheath structure in which the core of the thread is made of polyester of one type and the sheath portion of the thread is made of polyester of another type whose melting point is lower than that of the polyester of the one type, and the weight ratio of the core with respect to the sheath is in the range of 1:2 to 9:1.

5. Canceled.

6. (Original) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, characterized in that the three dimensionally knitted base material has a double raschel structure.

7. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, wherein a conductive metal layer of the electromagnetic wave shielding material is coated with a synthetic resin.

8. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 2, wherein the melting point of the heat-fusing thread is in the range of 100 to 190°C.

9. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 3, wherein the melting point of the heat-fusing thread is in the range of 100 to 190°C.

10. (Currently amended) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, comprising portions having the connecting thread and portions omitting the connecting thread in well wale and/or course directions of the knitted base material.

11. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 2, wherein the heat-fusing thread is bonded or fused at contacting points.

12. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, having the structure of one of

a normally intersecting connection thread which normally intersects and interconnects the upper and lower ground structures,

a diagonally intersecting connection thread which diagonally intersects and interconnects the upper and lower ground structures, and

a truss structure including both the normally and diagonally intersecting connection threads in combined manner.

13. (Currently amended) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, wherein the upper ground structure is connected with the lower ground structure by alternatively arranging portions having the connecting thread and portions not having the connecting thread with a predetermined distance therebetween in well wale and/or course directions of the knitted base material.

14. (Currently amended) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 13, wherein the portions not having the connecting thread are arranged in both the well wale and course directions.

15. (Currently amended) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 13, wherein the portions not having the connecting thread are arranged in either the course or the well wale directions.

16. (Previously Presented) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 13, being structured and arranged to form gaskets by being cut at the portions not having the connecting thread.

17.(new) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, consisting of said fibrous structure base material, conductive metal layer and connection thread.

18.(new) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, excluding a foam layer.

19.(new) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, exhibiting excellent recovery from compression and deterioration resistance, suppression of coating material separation and reduced generation of cutting debris upon manufacture.

20.(new) The electromagnetic wave shielding material of claim 1, withstanding a pressure at about 50% compression of at least about 10 as measured by the device TYPE PF-11 manufactured by Rafurokku Co. and possessing an electromagnetic damping rate of at least about 85 dB 1GHz as measured according to the KEC method.